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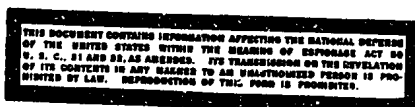
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ESTABLISHMENT OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA

This report includes: (1) the Directive Concerning the Organization of the People's Militia, issued by the Central and South China Bureau of the Central Committee, Chinese Communist Party, (2) the Provisional Law for the Organization of the People's Militia in the Central and South China Regional District, issued by the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee; and (3) an article entitled "Help the Party to Strengthen the People's Militia." The article states that the directive and the provisional law are measures of vital importance for strengthening the rural people's dictatorship and for building a foundation for national mobilization, and that the CCP should be aided in strengthening the people's militia in the Central and South China.

DIRECTIVE ON ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA

The following directive was issued by the Central and South China Bureau of the Central Committee, Chinese Communist Party.

A. Need for Militia

During the periods of Chinese sovietization (1913 - 1934), the Sino-Japanese War, and the People's Liberation War, the people's militia performed great services. The Chinese Communist Party has always understood the importance of the people's militia, but since the country achieved basic nation-wide victory some people have begun to question its function. Such an attitude is wrong and must be corrected. At present, the bandits have not been completely wiped out and the special agents are still awaiting an opportune moment to strike against us. To fortify our victorious gains and to suppress the sabotage and resistance of domestic and foreign foes, a people's militia is urgently needed. In fact, the militia should be further strengthened to form a solid foundation for national defense mobilization.

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During the past year some achievements, especially in the suppression of bandits and the safeguarding of social order, have been made. However, due to the lack of a clear-cut policy and the absence of sound leadership, the people's militia in Central and South China is not large enough nor of adequate quality. We must change this situation immediately; plans must be made to develop a strong people's militia.

B. Military Organization

The people's militia at present shall be a military organization -- with voluntary participation of the masses -- working for the defense of the fatherland and for the interests of the people. Because it is part of the long-range plan for national defense mobilization, the organization is much broader than before. The general objective is to organize an absolute majority of able working people for military training, thus paving the way for the future compulsory military service system.

To suppress bandits and to maintain the local social order, a number of armed units may be chosen from the people's militia instead of establishing a separate civil defense force. The proper way to organize and develop the people's militia is to concentrate efforts on building small units. As soon as the masses have raised their political awareness and zeal for action through social struggle, the small units may be expanded into larger units. We must not stress merely an increase in numbers of the people's militia, nor must we expand the people's militia by means of compulsory registration or conscription.

The people's militia must maintain its purity in the sense that its components must come from the rural working people. As the first step, we must recruit the sound and active members of the working class into the people's militia. When this has been done, we must extend membership in the organization to the majority of the young farm workers, poor peasants, and middle peasants. Finally, we may extend the organization to include the majority of the working people who are eligible for service. Burglars, gangsters, landlords, and rich peasants shall not be allowed to join the militia.

The basic armed units of the people's militia must, from the very beginning, be composed exclusively of active and politically trustworthy people. We must develop the people's militia gradually, step by step and on a voluntary basis, into a people's force under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. We must overcome the blind development which prevails in certain areas and put more emphasis on raising the quality of the militia through reorganization and purge.

C. Basic Conditions

An increase in the political awareness of the broad masses and an improvement of their economic life are the two basic conditions for building up a large, strong people's militia. The people's militia is being organized in the course of the peasant emancipation movement. However, achievement in our work among the masses does not necessarily mean achievement in building the people's armed forces. The building of a people's militia requires more specific and systematic efforts.

In general, we should pursue the following plan. When bandits and despots are very active, a few selected local residents may be chosen to organize small armed units (with the approval of the peasant associations at the ch'u or hsien level) and to place these units under strict supervision. In this period we must be very careful in selecting the members so that the purity of the organization's character can be maintained. In other words, we must scrutinize the background of each member and never carelessly approve a new member of the organization. Furthermore, guns and rifles should be kept under very rigid supervision.

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In the period of the rent-reduction movement we may develop the organization along more specific lines. In due time we may ask representatives from the people's militia to hold conferences and promote them as centers of influence and inspire them to take an active part in the mass movement. In the meantime, we may absorb the active elements, those who participated in campaigns or in production drives, into the people's militia.

In the period of agrarian reform, when there are a greater number of enthusiastic persons of better quality in the people's militia, when the class lines have been clearly drawn, and when the peasants have been generally organized, we can strive for more rapid development. We can hold militia representative conferences and let the representatives elect their own governing body. When the peasants representative conference is in session, we should present for general discussion the question of building the people's militia and make special arrangements to rally the people to support the people's militia; in turn, the people's militia should be rallied to the support of the peasant association.

D. Democratic Centralism

The people's militia is a military organization. Although it is different from the ordinary people's organizations, it also differs from the regular armed forces. It is organized on the basis of democratic centralism and strict political and military discipline. The organization responsible for directing the people's militia at the ch'u or hsien level should be the people's armed force committee. It is elected by the people's militia representative conference with the approval of higher government authority. The militia meetings and representative conferences at various levels shall be the principal organizational forms by which the party can arm the masses. These meetings and conferences shall be convened regularly.

It will be their duty to elect the people's armed force committee, draft rules and regulations, discuss the major tasks for each period, and create study plans. An efficient system of command and good discipline must be established in the people's militia. Members of the people's militia should receive regular training, so that they will always observe discipline, obey orders, and thereby overcome the peasants' weakness of being disunited and disorganized. Only by practicing the democratic system of control, as it is instituted in the representative conferences of the people's militia and in general meetings, can we stimulate the enthusiasm of the peasants, and accordingly organize them in a united people's armed force.

On the administrative level above the special administrative district [between hsien and province], there will be no people's armed force committee; the military district or subdistrict authorities of the People's Liberation Army shall be in charge of all matters concerning the establishment of the people's militia. To develop the people's militia into an indispensable reserve for the regular army, and to institute universal military training, thus paving the way for future compulsory military service, the military district authorities on various levels should devote more effort to the improvement of the military technique and the political awareness of the people's militia.

E. Party Leadership

The people's militia must be under party leadership. The executive committees of the party at various levels should devote more time to guidance of the people's militia. Since the party generally suspended the development of party organizations in rural areas in the period preceding the land reform, it is now time to exert greater efforts to expand the Youth Corps and use it as a means for expanding the people's militia. Most of the participants in

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the people's militia are young, and to receive military training is an essential duty of the youth. Hence, to help the party build up a people's militia becomes the most important task of the Youth Corps in rural areas.

Leaders of the Youth Corps on the ch'u or hsien level may be appointed as vice-chairmen of the people's armed force committee or as commissars responsible for political education in the people's militia. The Youth Corps should unreservedly execute orders and directives issued by higher authorities in the people's militia. Members of the Youth Corps who join the people's militia should exercise their influences to direct the development of the people's militia along the proper lines.

F. Strict Discipline

Because the people's militia is widely dispersed and also because it is equipped with arms, it frequently violates discipline and becomes aggressive, causing great grievance among the masses. Henceforth, strict discipline should be enforced from the formation of a unit. The qualifications of each individual in a people's militia must be examined carefully, and the cadres must also be carefully chosen. The captain of the people's militia at the hsien level, after having been selected by members of the hsien militia, must be subject to examination by the peasant association and the hsien government, and to final approval by the hsien government. In addition, purge, reorganization, and other measures should be constantly applied to maintain the discipline of the people's militia. The main sources of the arms for the people's militia are captured enemy arms, those confiscated from former landlords, and those borrowed from the people. Training and other activities of the people's militia must not interfere with ordinary agricultural pursuits; in fact, members of the people's militia should be taught to be model workers on the agricultural production front. Only by doing these things, can the people's militia win the support of the people.

G. Leadership

We should choose an adequate number of leaders responsible for directing the people's militia at the ch'u level and above. The military district authorities should select a number of cadres from the hsien people's armed force committees, and the Provincial Council should select a number of cadres from the peasant associations and assign one or two of these cadres to each military subdistrict to direct the people's militia there.

This instruction, together with the Provisional Law for the Organization of the People's Militia, issued by the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee, should be circulated and discussed among the cadres. The entire existing people's militia should be reorganized and reformed in accordance with the aforementioned principles. Problems relating to the arming of the industrial workers in cities shall be dealt with in a separate directive.

PROVISIONAL LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA

According to the Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao of 17 August 1950, the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee has issued a provisional law for the organization of the people's militia. The full text of the law, which has been delivered to all the military districts and provincial governments in the Central and South China Regional District, and became effective on 15 August 1950, is as follows:

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I. GENERAL RULES

Article 1

This law is formulated in accordance with Article 23 of the Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference which states that "The People's Republic of China shall enforce the system of people's militia to maintain local order and to lay the foundation for national mobilization" -- in accordance with the actual conditions in the Central and South China Regional District.

Article 2

The people's militia is a people's armed force under the supervision of the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee; it shall not be exempt from agricultural work. Any male working person, ages 18 to 30, may join the people's militia voluntarily upon the approval of the responsible authorities in his locality.

Article 3

The concrete tasks of the people's militia are as follows:

1. Maintenance of Local Order

The people's militia shall assist the People's Liberation Army and local public security force to eliminate bandits, round up spies, maintain social order, and suppress the sabotage and resistance of reactionary elements.

2. Protection of Productive Enterprises

The people's militia shall maintain the normal production order in the rural areas and assist the People's Liberation Army and the local public security force in protecting railways, bridges, telephone lines, storage plants, factories, mines, forestry projects, irrigation projects, etc., from fire, spies, or theft.

II. ORGANIZATIONS

Article 4

Democratic centralism is the guiding principle of organization; upon this basis sound military and political disciplines will be strictly applied.

Article 5

The people's militia at hsien level and below shall set up a representative conference and a committee as its governing bodies. The representative conference of the militia shall be the governing body for the hsien and ch'u people's militia, and the general meeting of the members of the people's militia at hsien (or ts'un) administrative level shall be the governing body of the people's militia at hsien level. When these conferences and meetings are not in session, the hsien, ch'u or hsien people's armed force committees, elected at such meetings and conferences as those mentioned, shall be the governing bodies for the respective people's militia.

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The committee shall be composed of 7-11 members, one of whom shall be the chairman and one to three shall be vice-chairmen. Members nominated to the committee, including the chairman and vice-chairmen, shall be examined by the peasants representative conference at its own level and must be approved and officially appointed by the next higher authority.

Article 6

The people's militia at hsien level and above shall be under the direct supervision of the People's Liberation Army of each military district or sub-district. The People's Liberation Army authorities in each military district or subdistrict may set up special control offices and sections in charge of the daily matters concerning the people's militia. The military authority in each military district or subdistrict may convene a people's militia representative conference, if necessary.

Article 7

Organizational forms of the people's militia:

The people's militia unit at hsien level shall be a detachment, to which will be assigned a commander and a political commissar; the unit for the people's militia at ch'u level shall be a battalion, to which will be assigned a battalion commander and a political commissar; and the unit for hsiang level shall be a company which will have a company commander and a political commissar. All these units may, if necessary, appoint a deputy commander. The chairman and the vice-chairman of the people's armed force committee shall be the commander and the political commissar of the people's militia at each respective level. A company may be divided into platoons and squads; the leader of each platoon or squad, shall be elected by its members, upon the examination by the hsiang people's representative conference or peasant representative conference and upon the approval and formal appointment by the people's armed force committee at higher level.

Article 8

Out of a company or a platoon, as occasion demands, may be organized a basic cadre platoon or a squad to get military training of a higher type, in order to perform military duties of a higher rank.

III. DISCIPLINE AND PRIVILEGES

Article 9

All members of the people's militia shall comply with the following discipline:

1. Obey orders and wipe out bandits and special agents.
2. Take good care of arms and use ammunition economically.
3. Be kind to the people, obey laws and regulations.
4. Be diligent in production and study.

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Members of the people's militia shall have the following privileges:

1. The right to vote at various conferences and to be elected.
2. The right to speak and to vote on problems under discussion at various conferences.
3. The right to make suggestions on all matters concerning the people's militia.
4. Active service in the campaign against counterrevolutionaries may be credited as a substitute for other public labor duty. Any member of the people's militia who is on a combat mission in areas away from his native district over a period of time (the exact period of time shall be determined by the provincial government in accordance with the actual conditions) shall be entitled to receive government rations. Any person who is wounded while on active duty shall receive free hospitalization, and dependents of any person killed while on active duty shall be entitled to pension.

Article 11

The leading organ of the people's militia may criticize, admonish, discharge, or dismiss any member of the people's militia who violates discipline, and must report such disciplinary action to the higher authority. Physical punishment and fines of any kind shall be absolutely forbidden. Those who show distinction in study or in service shall be chosen as heroes and shall be entitled to receive rewards.

IV. RELATION OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO
PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AND REGULAR ARMY

Article 12

The people's militia and its leading body shall be under the guidance of the local people's government, as well as under the guidance of the higher military authority, and shall comply with the laws and decrees of the Central People's Government.

If regulations issued to the people's militia by the local people's government are in conflict with those issued by higher military authority, the latter shall overrule the former.

Article 13

While working in coordination with the People's Liberation Army and public security units for bandit suppression, the people's militia shall accept orders from the military and public authorities.

V. APPROPRIATIONS

Article 14

The budget for the people's militia at hsien level and below shall be financed by additional local public grain collections. The size of the budget shall be determined by the authorities of the military district or sub-district, with the approval of the provincial people's government.

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Appropriations for the people's militia at the military subdistrict level and above shall be provided by the district military authority and not collected directly from the people.

VI. APPENDIX

Article 15

This law applies only to rural areas. The organization of people's militia in city areas shall be dealt with by separate regulations.

Article 16

The People's Liberation Army authorities in the Central and South China Regional District may draw up detailed regulations in accordance with this law and put them into effect upon the approval of the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee.

Article 17

This law has been approved by the People's Revolutionary Military Council of the Central People's Government.

PARTY TO STRENGTHEN PEOPLE'S MILITIA

Recently, the Central and South China Bureau of the Central Committee, Chinese Communist Party, issued a directive concerning the organization of the people's militia and the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee promulgated the Provisional Law for the Organization of the People's Militia. These are measures of vital importance for strengthening the rural people's dictatorship and for building a foundation for national mobilization.

Since the liberation of South China and after a series of struggles, including the suppression of bandits, the campaign against special agents and despots, and rent reduction, the peasants have become their own political masters, achieving some gains in rural economy. However, the bandits have not yet been completely wiped out; special agents are still active, and the landlord class is still resisting. The imperialists constantly send special agents by way of Hong Kong and Macao to penetrate into our country and undermine the government. Therefore, we must strengthen the militia organizations and use them to keep close surveillance over the landlords, and domestic and foreign enemies, thereby preserving the revolutionary gains.

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and after a series of social reforms in the rural areas, a large number of people's militia organizations have been set up in various areas. This militia has accomplished many things, especially with respect to bandit suppression, the campaign against special agents, investigation of unauthorized possession of arms, protection of public grain stores, and safeguarding of the autumn harvest, etc. The people's militia in Kwangsi Province, in coordination with the local People's Liberation Army, has played an important role in the suppression of bandits and special agents. Since the party will hereafter place more emphasis on strengthening the people's militia all over the country, it is believed that the people's militia will become an organization of the masses for safeguarding the people's dictatorship, particularly in the rural areas, and a reserve force for national defense.

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The party directive pointed out that "since the party generally suspended the development of party organizations in rural areas in the period preceding the land reform, it is now time to exert greater efforts to expand the Youth Corps and use it as a means for expanding the people's militia. Most of the participants in the people's militia are young, and to receive military training is an essential duty of the youth. Hence, to help the party build up a people's militia becomes the most important task of the Youth Corps in rural areas." Therefore, the Youth Corps must bear this responsibility with all its effort. It must not fail.

However, the Youth Corps has left many things to be done in respect to building up a people's militia. In some areas, the Youth Corps exercised its influence through individual members rather than as an organization. In other areas, the corps did a good job during the critical stage of suppressing bandits and special agents, but as soon as the situation became calm the corps relaxed and even remained idle. In still other areas, members of the local chapters of the Youth Corps did not join the people's militia. Because members of the Youth Corps failed to accept the important job of helping the party to build up the people's militia, some people's militia units were infiltrated by special agents, despots, warlords, landlords, and gangsters. Some units of the people's militia were even controlled by these criminals, which resulted in violations of discipline, failure to accomplish production targets, and other serious consequences. Even those organizations formed by poor peasants and farm workers are no exception. Members of these organizations sometimes resorted to retaliation, resulting in disunity among peasants of different villages or causing conflict between different clans -- all because they had not received sound ideological training and therefore failed to identify their real enemy in the class struggle.

To fulfill the above-mentioned task, the Youth Corps should consider the people's militia a major field of political activity. The corps should urge its members to join the people's militia. Members who join the militia should be organized as centers of influence under the leadership of the local party branch committee. More and more workers should be encouraged to join the militia. The political elements in the organization must always be pure. The people's militia must be taught the theory of class struggle, illustrated with concrete examples of patriotism, programs, discipline, physical exercise, etc. We should develop the people's militia into a well organized, politically conscious force with good discipline.

All these training programs must not interfere with the ordinary agricultural work of the people. On the contrary, we should teach them how to increase production and become labor heroes. Only thus can the people's militia win the support of the people, and only thus can the militia achieve a normal and healthy development. In the meantime, the active members of the people's militia should be recruited into the Youth Corps so that together the corps and the people's militia can grow rapidly.

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